

DISCOVERY

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Vol. 30, No. 5 - Friday, March 10, 2006 - Brooks City-Base, TX

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Simulated space kindles science interest in Brooks ‘micronauts’

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

They’re no taller than scooter-sized meteorites, but their interest in space science glows with the same curiosity that motivates NASA scientists who today are analyzing interstellar materiel taken from comets.

Youngsters from Scobee Elementary School launched their new-found careers as simulated space pioneers Feb. 22 when they became the first ‘micronauts’ to participate in the new program at the Challenger Learning Center of San Antonio here at Brooks City-Base.

“We usually don’t get little ones here. It’s the first time we’ve had students in grades K-2 involved,” said Shelia Klein, the center’s director of public relations. She said the new micronauts program is designed as a science and math based hands-on program to get children, ages 5-10, interested in those subjects. Historically, children who participate in Challenger Learning Center programs are primarily middle school students.

The program was developed through a partnership between the Challenger Center for Space Science Education, headquartered in Alexandria, Va., and the Challenger Learning Center of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. The Brooks Aerospace Foundation-supported Challenger Center here, part of a network of more than 50 like centers in the U.S., Canada and Great Britain, is the first center to acquire this program.

Its premiere here was made possible through a \$5,000 donation from the Brooks Spouses Club raised through Brooks Thrift Shop sales. “It’s the biggest contribution we’ve made, but we have philanthropically given to others. We wanted this money to be our legacy to a whole new generation of children by helping them reach for the stars,” said Brooks Spouses Club representative Jo McIver, wife of the late Aerospace Medicine Division commander and space medicine pioneer Brig. Gen. Robert McIver.

Eighteen children in grades K-2 participated in several space science activities that included a 40 minute “Mini Dis-



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Scobee Elementary School students use balance pans to weigh objects during their “micronaut” program training at the Challenger Learning Center at Brooks. The program is designed as a hands-on, science and math-based learning program.

covery Mission” and two 40 minute “Micronaut Tech EVAs” (Extravehicular Activity). The International Space Station was the setting for the Mini Discovery Mission in which micronauts conducted a series of hands-on experiments to help them learn about the earth and our solar system.

“They spend five minutes at each (work) station, and then they rotate to the next station,” said Challenger Learning Center flight director Bill Merrill. Micronauts conducted measurements using pan balance, observed solar arrays, manned a chemical weigh station, were involved in scientific instrument readings, classified rocks, isolated bugs and identified microscopic germs. They also identified different sounds and correctly matched the order of our solar system planets.

During the Micronaut Tech EVA exercise, students used multi-colored googolplex parts to assemble a nanosat, a scale model of a mini-satellite. They also learned to use telescopes. Included in their micronaut orientation was viewing a vid-

eotape of astronauts’ daily routines in space.

“I think this is great, especially for the little ones. This will give them a good start in getting them interested in science earlier,” said Dr. Linda Mora, deputy superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for the Northside Independent School District.

Dr. Mora, who observed the micronaut training along with three NISD administrators, said the Challenger Center program is a great resource for helping their district attain educational goals.

“We’re re-focusing our curriculum on science beginning with the earlier grades. We hope to increase student interest in science,” Dr. Mora said, noting that by fifth grade, students are required to take a state mandated test in science as part of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills exam requirements.

Scobee Elementary School, named for Challenger commander Dick Scobee who died during the 1986 space shuttle explosion, was selected to be the first school to participate in the micronauts program because of its long relationship with the Challenger Center. In 1997, during Scobee Elementary School’s 10th anniversary, students presented a check for \$751.91 to the Brooks Aerospace Foundation. “It was the first money that the Brooks Aerospace Foundation had received to build the Challenger Learning Center,” Mrs. Klein explained. Scobee fifth grade students have annually participated in the Challenger Center’s middle school program since its inception in 2000.

Advent of PKI at BCB impacts network access

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

A Defense Department initiative that dramatically upgrades computer security will further give credence to the old saying “knowledge is power” when Public Key Infrastructure is fully implemented later this year.

For the Brooks City-Base community, and anyone else working for the Air Force who is authorized to use federal computer systems, adhering to PKI requirements will become an absolute necessity.

“Your Common Access Card will be like an American Express Card. Don’t leave home without it,” said Jay Wilson, Assistant Team Lead for the Brooks Information Assurance Office.

By summer, a major shift takes place within the information technology culture that will significantly impact federal workers’ web-based activity, Mr. Wilson said. He explained that accessing your government computer using a CAC will no longer be an option.

“Under the government’s new culture of PKI, no CAC will mean no access,” Mr. Wilson said. He noted that manual keyboard entry of client names and passwords will no longer be acceptable. The Air Force Materiel Command deadline for PKI implementation is June 26. Full DoD-wide implementation is July 31.

Mandated by DoD in 1999, PKI is designed to enhance overall information assurance by supporting cryptographic transmission of information, including e-mail, across the Internet, Mr. Wilson explained. PKI provides stronger levels of identification, authentication and confidentiality through the use of CAC’s electronically imbedded digital signatures and certificates.

The impetus for this initiative is twofold. PKI supports “information superiority as an Air Force core competency” that is integral to Air Force Vision 2020. Its implementation also serves as a major cyberterrorism countermeasure. PKI’s safeguards are designed to thwart hackers and terrorists from viewing, altering or sabotaging (through malicious activity) federal information transmitted over the Internet.

Ultimately, PKI will become a universal federal identification system. “Presidential Directive PD-12 was issued in June 2005. It states that we’ll have a common identification for the

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Junior Force Council elects new leadership

By 1st Lt. John Chattaway

311th Human Systems Wing/Public Affairs

The Brooks Junior Force Council met Feb. 23 to elect its new leadership. The new leaders are 2nd Lt. Jessica Smith, representing the company grade officers; Airman 1st Class Shelley Hall, representing the enlisted ranks; and Thomas Beltran, representing the civilian junior force.

Even though the JFC has been around since November of 2004, not many people know what it is, let alone that they are considered junior force. The JFC is anyone who is a com-

pany grade officer (O1-O3), enlisted members (E1-E5), and Air Force civilians with 10 years or less of government service and less than 30 years of age. That means on Brooks there are 209 officers, 466 enlisted members and 205 civilians that are considered junior force JFC and judging by the past few meetings, not many people know this.

So what is the JFC?

"The JFC is integral in building morale throughout the junior force and keeping motivation high," said 2nd Lt. Jessica Smith, a behavioral scientist with the Air Force Research Laboratory. "The JFC keeps the chain of command informed of the sentiments of the junior force and any problems or issues we may be experiencing."

How it accomplishes this is through a number of ways. On Feb. 7, the JFC held a senior leadership panel con-

sisting of Mr. Eric Stephens, 311 Human Systems Wing director, Col. Penny Giovanetti, 311 HSW deputy director, and Chief Master Sgt. Reggie Williams, 311 HSW command chief. JFC members were able to ask the base's senior leadership practically anything and voice their concerns. Various topics were discussed including assignments, deployments, mentoring programs, physical fitness tests, base realignment and closure, base facilities and more.

Mr. Stephens encourages JFC members to use this outstanding communication tool. "I have a direct connection to General Hudson at ASC and General Carlson at AFMC

and they fully support you (junior force)," he said. Chief Williams added, "Don't consider it whining. Change is a constant in life, if you have a problem come to us with a solution or recommendation as well. You are the future and we are committed to you."

Junior force members can bring their ideas and concerns to their individual unit representatives. "We will have reps from each organization," said Lieutenant Smith. "We're going to determine those reps at the next meeting. The reps will help us gather feedback and send out information on activities we have scheduled."

Those interested in serving as a unit representative or to learn more about the JFC, the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday at 2 p.m. in the conference room at the Family Support Center. There is also a website link located through the Brooks home page.

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The JFC is integral in building morale throughout the junior force and keeping motivation high.

2nd Lt. Jessica Smith

CGO Representative, Junior Force Council

COMMENTARY

Strength training vital to weight loss program

By Kendahl Johnson

Discovery editor

I am two months into my weight loss resolution. I feel good about my progress thus far. I have lost nearly 20 pounds and friends and family are starting to notice. Yet I am struggling – for a variety reasons.

First, it's a constant battle to get up in the morning for my workout. Dragging my big behind out of bed when the alarm goes off is a major chore. It would be easy to give up, and I am constantly having to rededicate myself to my long-term objective. Mind over mattress.

But the main obstacle has been reaching a plateau in my weight loss. Most of my weight loss occurred during the first six weeks of my diet and exercise program.

In the last few weeks, I have lost just one single pound. So I decided to re-examine my program to try to determine why the pounds are no longer melting away.

First, I did some research on weight loss plateaus and found they are very common and can be caused by a variety of reasons. Eating too few calories, loss of lean body mass and even a loss of weight can all cause a plateau.

I looked at my diet and don't think eating too few calories is the problem. If anything, after two months on a diet, I am fairly certain I am eating too MANY calories, not too few. When I first started dieting, I was pretty strict about what I ate. With time, I have become more lax and will slip up and eat high-caloric foods more often. This is probably part of the reason for the plateau.

Determined to continue to lose pounds at a healthy yet consistent pace, I decided to recommit myself to healthy eating habits on a regular basis. For example, if every Monday I "restart" my diet, then it will be more difficult to forget I am dieting and eat the foods that cause weight gain or weight loss plateaus.

Next, I looked at my exercise program. I work out three to five times per week. But it consists entirely of cardiovascular exercise. I am not doing anything to increase muscle mass. This is likely the biggest cause of my weight loss plateau.

If in losing weight, I also lost muscle mass, I have done my body a disservice. Muscle burns fat and losing

muscle means burning fewer calories. Lean body mass uses five times the calories as fat mass so without increasing muscle, metabolism may drop and weight loss could stop.

Knowing it was time to include strength training as part of my workout routine, I turned once again to the Health and Wellness Center for assistance. I scheduled a consultation with Staff Sgt. John Seay, a certified trainer and diet therapist. He told me I needed more balance between cardio and lifting.

"Strength training is a crucial factor in losing fat," Sergeant Seay informed me. "Not only does it make your body stronger, it also helps to raise your metabolism so you burn more calories all day long."

Next, Sergeant Seay gave me a physical training assessment. He measured my body fat percentage, my cardio endurance and upper and body strength and compared it to the Cooper Institute for Aerobic Research guidelines and standards to determine my ranking among people my age. Although it was discouraging

as it cements how much work I have yet to do, it was still somewhat motivating to know I am taking the necessary steps.

Sergeant Seay discussed several benefits of strength training. He offered advice in helping me add weights into my exercise and offered to help me identify some target areas and the exercises that would be most useful. He suggested keeping repetitions between 10 and 16 and lifting enough weight so the last repetition is difficult but not impossible. He also said workouts don't need to be long to be effective.

"You shouldn't work a muscle group more than 20 minutes a day," the sergeant said. "After 20 minutes, the muscle starts to fatigue and you don't get as much benefit from the workout."

In addition to equipment useful for cardiovascular workouts, like the treadmills and the stationary bikes, the HAWC has equipment for strength training. They have numerous dumbbells of all different weights and machines to work upper body and lower body. And best of all, the staff of the HAWC is available to help its customers develop a suitable exercise program, one that finds a balance between cardio and strength training.



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PKI implementation

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federal system,” said Joe Garrison, 311th Human Systems Wing’s Chief of Information Assurance.

Since January, network systems here began a conversion process to make them PKI-enabled (PKE), Mr. Garrison said. “We’re about 77 percent complete,” he said, noting that about 924 systems remain to be converted from an estimated total of 4,000 that exists at Brooks.

The keys to successful PKI implementation, information assurance officials here say, is clients determining if their government computer and CAC are compatible with the new system.

The first step is finding out if your CAC works, Mr. Wilson said. “The problem with CACs is that some people have forgotten their (Personal Identification Number),” he said. CAC PIN re-setting can be done through the Military Personnel Flight that issued the cards or at any of the CAC PIN reset terminals located at an installation.

During this process, clients can also find out if their CACs have basic PKI required certificates for encryption, identification and signature. “One of the problems we’re seeing is that a certificate may have been revoked,” Mr. Garrison said. These certificates, containing encrypted personal information, were initially electronically imbedded on CACs in 1999.

“If a person left federal/DoD employment, their certificates were removed. If they return to federal service, their certificates would have to be reissued,” Mr. Garrison said.

Certificates equate to a client’s PKI credentials. Government computer users can’t communicate without them. Under new Air Force messaging requirements expressed through PKI, certificates must be used to digitally sign all individual e-mails. It’s a foolproof method to counter cyber-identify theft.

These certificates are linked to PKI’s authentication system that uses public and private keys. Public keys, listed in a publicly accessible directory service such as the Global Address List, are attached to digitally signed e-mail messages

for recipient verification. Digitally signed e-mail messages under PKI differ from the old system of electronic signatures where digital images of actual handwritten signatures were transferred to electronic documents. PKI’s digital signatures rely on private keys created by the client through a 6-8 digit PIN known only to them. They’re virtually tamper-proof.

Once a CAC is determined to be usable under PKI, clients then can find out if their computer is PKE-compatible through their computer support administrator. “The important thing is to protect your CAC. Treat it like you would your ATM and credit cards,” Mr. Wilson said.

To check CAC certificates, visit <https://www.afmc-mil.wpafb.af.mil/HQ-AFMC/SC/sep/projects/pki-trng-chk-certs-on-cac.doc>. CAC PIN reset workstations at Brooks are listed at <https://www.afmc-mil.wpafb.af.mil/HQ-AFMC/SC/sep/projects/pki-cprws.htm>.

Under the government’s new culture of PKI, no CAC will mean no access.

Jay Wilson

Brooks Information Assurance Office

Community Assessment solicits input from spouses, civilians

By Elizabeth Castillo

Discovery writer

The 2006 Air Force Community Assessment is scheduled for release this month. Conducted every two years since 1991, the CA strives to identify community strengths and concerns.

“The goal of the Community Assessment is to identify installation level needs in human service agencies and identify the strengths and weaknesses,” said Fred Zeithammel, chairman of the Integrated Delivery System.

Since 1991, CA has surveyed Air Force communities in order to assist the Family Support Centers, Family Advocacy Programs, Health and Wellness Centers, Life Skills Centers, Family Member Programs and Chaplains.

The survey identifies strengths and weaknesses in order to improve services. Previously, the survey was only open to active duty members and spouses, and reservists and spouses. Now, not only is the CA the only survey open to spouses, this year’s survey is the first time that civilians will be included in the survey process as well.

“It’s the only Air Force assessment where spouses are actively solicited for their inputs,” said Mr. Zeithammel. “And in acknowledgement of their contributions to our communities and mis-

sion, Air Force civilian employees will participate for the first time.”

Participation in this web-based survey is voluntary and respondents will remain anonymous. Randomly selected participants will be notified via email and spouses will receive notification through the mail. The survey takes approximately 30-45 minutes to complete and after the surveys are completed, each installation will get the results back.

From the results, the Integrated Delivery System, made of members from the Brooks community, will develop an action plan to address and make sure the needs were identified. Those will then be presented to the Community Action Information Board, which is chaired by Eric Stephens, director of the 311th Human Systems Wing.

“It could be related to helping agencies, a need related to child care, or it could be a spiritual need,” said Mr. Zeithammel. “That need is identified and the IDS will ‘huddle up’ and develop a plan to attack it.”

This year the Air Force is shooting for 75 percent military participation and 50 percent spouse participation. “Although the survey is voluntary, we all have a shared responsibility to improve our communities and data from CA will drive those efforts,” Mr. Zeithammel said.

Visit the Discovery online at
www.brooks.af.mil/HSW/PA/discovery

Air National
Guard
7 x7



Brooks analyst passes away at 52

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The Brooks City-Base scientific community mourned the passing of Geraldine Guenther Gorzell, an Air Force Research Laboratory financial analyst, who died Feb. 27. She was 52.

Mrs. Gorzell was killed on her way to Brooks from her home in Poth, Texas. According to a Department of Public Safety traffic report, she died instantly when her vehicle was broadsided by another car at the intersection of County Road 427 and U.S. Highway 181 in Wilson County. DPS officials attributed the accident to near zero visibility caused by dense fog that was prevalent when the fatal mishap occurred at 5:15 a.m.



Geraldine Gorzell

“Everyone who knew her is still numb. Her death has left a huge void in all of us,” said Lt. Col. Ric Peterson, deputy chief of the AFRL Human Effectiveness Directorate’s Directed Energy Bioeffects Division.

Mrs. Gorzell’s boss Jarvis Stein characterized her as “a true professional.”

“I’ve known Geri for over 30 years. She was a tremendous worker, a born leader. Her death has been a shock to the Brooks community,” said Mr. Stein, AFRL/HED Comptroller’s Office branch chief.

Her death led Col. Sean Scully, AFRL Detachment 5 commander, to authorize a half-mast flag ceremony Feb. 28 at the Tejada Directed Energy complex where Mrs. Gorzell had worked. “I’ve never

seen that done before,” said Dr. Garrett Polhamus, Directed Energy Bioeffects Division chief who worked with Mrs. Gorzell in Bldg. 1184. “Senior Master Sgt. (Don) Fritz (HED Superintendent) had seen it done once at another base and suggested it be done here,” said Dr. Polhamus, referring to a flag lowering ceremony for a Brooks employee. He said Mrs. Gorzell’s sister Peggy observed the flag ceremony and the flag was given to the family.

The Brooks analyst was buried March 1 in Poth’s Blessed Sacrament Cemetery, next to her husband and high school sweetheart Leroy who had died 16 months earlier from cancer.

Mrs. Gorzell was born in Poth on August 28, 1953. She began her federal civil service career in San Antonio in 1974 working for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. On Sept. 18, 1975, she launched her Air Force civil service career at Brooks Air Force Base. She initially worked as a budget analyst for the U.S. Air Force School of Aero-

space Medicine. She subsequently worked in financial management for the Armstrong Laboratory and later the AFRL.

It was with the Research Laboratory where she developed a reputation for reliability and efficiency while working with funding contracts supporting countless research projects.

“She was good as gold,” said Mr. Stein in describing her as dependable co-worker who always had a big smile for everyone. “She had a magnetism that drew her to you.”

“She was the first face I saw when I came to work,” said Dr. Polhamus about Mrs. Gorzell whose office was adjacent to his. He said she was a comforting presence during budget battles with higher headquarters. “She was always ahead of me in taking care of things that needed to be done,” he said. She would tell him not to worry about requirements that she had already taken great care to fulfill.

She is survived by two daughters, Keri Lynn Cooper and Lisa Diane Gorzell.

Allied Schools
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3 x 4

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7 x 3



NSPS implementation team unveils updated Brooks website

By Ed Shannon
311th Human Systems Wing/PA

Officials from the Brooks National Security Personnel System Implementation Team unveiled a new and improved website during the Wing Director’s Call, March 2.

The website provides an easier, user-friendly connection for Brooks managers and employees to access the latest information about the new personnel system, said Charles Shinn, Brooks NSPS Implementation Advisor. NSPS is expected to be implemented at Brooks no earlier than October 2006.

The website is accessible by logging on to the Brooks home page and clicking on the NSPS link located on the right side of the screen. After clicking on the link, visitors to the website will be taken to a page with a pin-

wheel of various links, including information about training, proposed implementing issuances, frequently asked questions, director’s memos, pay informa-



tion and briefings. There are also links to articles published in the Discovery newspaper and to register for training. At the bottom of the page are links to the Department of Defense and Air Force NSPS web pages.

Meanwhile, the March 17 deadline for Brooks supervisors and employees is only one week away, Mr. Shinn said. Military and civilian supervisors of civilians are required to attend the Interactive Skills Training class

and take a Soft Skills Change Management computer-based training course. As of March 3, 57 percent of military and civilian supervisors of civilians base-wide had attended the Interactive Skills Training, according to Lavern Kistner, Education and Training director.

Thirty-five percent of military and civilian supervisors of civilians base-wide had completed a Soft Skills computer-based training course.

Civilian non-supervisors are required to take one Soft Skills computer-based training course and one Change Management training course. As of March 3, 41 percent of non-supervisors had completed at least one of the computer-based training classes.

For instructions to register for the computer-based training classes through the Air Force

Portal, Brooks supervisors and non-supervisors should log on to the Brooks NSPS home page and click on the Training link on the pinwheel. That will call up a page with a Soft Skills training link. Click on that link to receive registration instructions.

It is important that all Brooks military and civilian personnel ensure their profile on the Air Force Portal is accurate. In some cases, personnel list either an e-

mail address from an assignment at a previous base or no e-mail address. An accurate e-mail address is required for training officials to accurately credit personnel upon completion of computer-based training.

Supervisors needing to take the Interactive Skills Training class have a limited opportunity to attend training at Randolph AFB. Contact Mr. Shinn at 536-2123 to register.

Instructions for accessing NSPS training courses via the AF Portal:

1. Log into the AF portal: <https://www.my.af.mil>
2. If you do not have a user name and password you will need to create one. Go to the Register Now box and select “Register without CAC”
3. Once you have your user name and password, login and ensure that you are on the AF Home tab page.
4. From the “Top Viewed Items” area, select “IT E-Learning”
5. Once you select “IT E-Learning” the SkillPort page will appear. Using the “Search for” text box you can search for any courses you wish.
6. If you wish you can change the category drop down to “Courses” to speed up your search.

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National Women’s History month

Brooks will be offering several events to help celebrate March as National Women’s History month. There will be two brown bag luncheon lectures — Thursday will be a self defense seminar hosted by Ted Meyers and March 23 Cherie Sachiel-Flint will host a lecture call Posture, Pills and Possibilities. Both events will take place in Bldg. 775, Room 147 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lt. Col. (ret) Olga Custodio will be the guest speaker at the Speaker’s Luncheon March 30 in the Brooks Club.

Women’s History Month provides our country the privilege of honoring the countless contributions that American women have made throughout our history. This year’s theme is “Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams.”

Pneumococcal vaccine

If you are over the age of 65 years or have a chronic medical condition, and have not had the Pneumococcal vaccination in the past five years, please ask your doctor if you are eligible for this vaccine. More people suffer from complications of Pneumococcal pneumonia than any other vaccine-preventable disease. The Pneumococcal vaccination has been proven to substantially reduce severe pneumococcal pneumonia and other pneumococcal infec-

tions. For those eligible, the Pneumococcal vaccine is fully covered under healthcare benefits.

Cup-A-Joe Coffee House

Cup-A-Joe Coffee House at Sidney’s will open Monday. A ribbon cutting ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. The entire area has been renovated and will feature a WWII theme. The coffee shop will be open weekdays from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 8 to 11 a.m., and will proudly brew Starbucks coffee.

Youth baseball registration

Baseball practice begins March 20, while the season runs from April 10 through June 7. Children from ages 5-18 years are welcome to participate at their level of experience. T-Ball will be available for 5 year olds. Sign up at the Teen or Youth Center. The cost of the league is \$35 for Youth Center members and \$52 for non-members. For more information or to register, contact Ron Hayes at 536-3160.

Chess tournament

Stop by the Youth Programs Center (Bldg. 470) to register for a March 22 chess tournament. The tournament provides an opportunity for families, youth and other community members to participate in a recreational and educational activity.

The tournament is open to adults and children — active duty and retired military personnel, civilians and contractors.

Federal elections

This year, U.S. citizens will elect 34 senators, the entire House of Representatives, 37 state governors and hundreds of state and local officials. Primaries begin this month and the general election is Nov. 7. To participate in home states’ elections, service members need to complete a Federal Post Card application requesting an absentee ballot in time for local election offices to mail the ballot to the citizen and then for the ballot to be returned before the state’s deadline. Applications can be accessed on the Federal Voting Assistance Program’s website at www.fvap.gov.

Junior Force Council

The Junior Force Council will hold its next meeting Thursday at 2 p.m. in the Family Support Center conference room. Various unit representatives are needed. For more information contact 2nd Lt. Jessica Smith at 536-4777.

Spring Break Day Camp

Spring Break Day Camp will be held March 13-17 from 6:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Youth Programs Center. Field trips, computer time, outdoor play, arts and crafts, cooking activities and leisure time make up the camp day. Breakfast, lunch and a snack are included in the fee.

Saritas

KLRN

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Colon Cancer
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ERIC STEPHENS
311th Human Systems
Wing director

ACTION LINE

536-2222

The DIRECTOR'S ACTION LINE is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play. If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the **DIRECTOR'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222**. Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

Brooks City-Base Security.....	536-2851	Military Personnel.....	536-1845
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571	Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
311th Mission Support Group –		Military Pay.....	536-5778
Logistics Division.....	536-3541	Civilian Pay.....	536-8370
Safety.....	536-2111	Inspector General (FWA).....	536-2358
BDA Housing Community Maintenance.....	533-5900	Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
BDA Housing Community Office.....	533-5905	EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
311th Services Division.....	536-2545	Brooks City-Base AF Project Office.....	536-3655
59th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715	Brooks Development Authority.....	536-5366

AFAF kicks off fund-raising campaign

The Air Force Assistance Fund campaign kicked off Monday. The six-week fund-raising effort helps raise money in support of the Air Force Aid Society, the official charity of the U.S. Air Force, as well as the Air Force Village and Enlisted Village and the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation.

“The Air Force Aid Society is the best thing to happen for the Airmen,” said Lucy Belles, director of the Family Support Center. “It provides financial assistance for emergency situations.”

This year’s goal is 100 percent contact with more than 50 percent participation. This year’s monetary goal for Brooks is to raise \$22,843.

Numerous fund-raising events have been scheduled. There will be a three-point shoot out March 24 at 1:30 in the gym. A bench press competition will be held March 29 at 1:30 p.m., also in the gym. In addition, a mini track and field event will be held April 7. All other

fundraisers are disallowed during the duration of the AFAF campaign.

“The military participation is key in order to make the 2006 AFAF campaign a success,” said 1st Lt. Mary Kelley, one of this year’s project officers. “I am looking forward to working with all unit project officers, and seeing the military come together in order to support an Airman Helping Airman project.”



The AFAS is a three-pronged charter that promotes the Air Force mission by providing worldwide emergency assistance to members and their families, sponsoring educational assistance programs, and offering a variety of base community enhancement programs that impact member/family welfare.

For more information about the Air Force Assistance Fund or Brooks’ fund raisers, contact Lieutenant Kelley at 536-2567 or Master Sgt. Robert Jones at 536-1190.

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

TROOPS TO TEACHERS

Thursday — 1 - 4 p.m., Bldg. 537

Ms. Meryl Kettler, the state Troop to Teachers coordinator, will hold a briefing to discuss the routes to achieving Texas teacher certification, the status of TTT, certification programs available in the area and eligibility criteria for funding from Troops to Teachers. She will also discuss the new Spouses to Teachers initiative. Anyone interested in becoming a teacher is invited.

SPONSOR TRAINING

Mondays — 1 - 1:30 p.m., Bldg. 537

Sponsor training is mandatory of all first-time sponsors and those who have not sponsored within the past year. However, others are more than welcome to attend. Learn about tools and resources available for sponsors.

DID YOU VOLUNTEER IN 2005?

The Family Support Center is asking individuals to submit their names and hours volunteered by today. Volunteer Appreciation will be April 12 at Hangar 9. The FSC is also accepting Volunteer Excellence Award nominations. If you have any questions, contact Tech. Sgt. Brigida Hendrix at 536-2444.

SPACE CAMP SCHOLARSHIP

The Military Child Education Coalition is taking applications or the 2006 Bernard Curtis Brown II Memorial Scholarship. Space Camp is a five-day

program that shows youngsters firsthand what it takes to be an astronaut. To be eligible, applicants must be a child of an active duty military parent or activated guard or reservist, be enrolled in grades six through nine, submit hand-written essay stating why he or she should be selected, submit two letters of recommendation with contact information and complete and submit the application by deadline. For more information, visit website at www.MilitaryChild.org.

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

This program is a free benefit provided to civilians and their spouses and dependent children. Services can be accessed by calling 1-800-222-0364. The EAP offers short term counseling/problem resolution either by telephone or via face to face counseling with a therapist in private practice in the San Antonio area, referrals to community resources, legal and financial services, a website resources offered at www.FOH4you.com, consultations, Critical Incident Stress Management services, and health and wellness presentations. Confidentiality is the cornerstone of the EAP. Counselors are ethically and legally bound by law to protect client information (except in cases where one is threatening to harm themselves or someone else).

**To register for a class,
call 536-2444**



AWARD RECOGNITION

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anita Schroeder



Master Sgt. Lucinda Sinclair (right), of the Air Force Institute for Operational Health, was selected U.S. Air Force Labratory Senior NCO of the Year. Brig. Gen. (Dr.) William Germann, Command Surgeon for the Air Force Materiel Command, presents the sergeant with a congratulatory letter during his visit to Brooks City-Base.

***Progressive
Clinic
3 x 4***

***Lennar
Homes***

***SA Lighthouse
3 x 5***



HSRC

Sea World



Dining Heading

Alamo
Draft
House
1 x 8

Maliks

16 Blocks
3 x 7

Mr. Gattis

Santikos

She’s the Man
3 x 7



NATIONAL PRAYER LUNCHEON

Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart



Chaplain (Col.) Nathaniel Crawford Jr., Wing Chaplain at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., was the keynote speaker at the National Prayer Luncheon, held Feb. 28 in the Brooks Club. The chaplain addressed the Brooks community about the importance of prayer. “We are a nation in need of prayer — there is no greater time in our nation, in our military history, when prayer is needed more,” Chaplain Crawford told the audience. “Prayer will give us a growing love and compassion for all people. It will give us an increased effectiveness in serving our country. Prayer will make us available so that, in partnership with God, we can bring his transforming power into contact with the crippling and debilitating problems of our world. Many people have a desire to pray but demonstrate a resistance to actually doing it and doing it consistently and for the right reasons. Until we develop a relationship with God through prayer, we will never be the America God wants us to be.”

Jan Perry

Barry Efron

List 4 less

Contact Football

Bennigans
3 x 3

First
Commercial

First
Commercial

TLC Vision
3 x 5



THOMAS



FULL NAME:

Staff Sgt. Nakeva L. Thomas

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:

NCOIC, Information Management,
311th Human Systems Wing

**IN SIMPLE TERMS,
WHAT DO YOU DO?:**

Log, track and monitor the wing admin
correspondence tracking system.
Monitor and distribute incoming and
outgoing official mail/communications.

BIRTHDAY:

May 7, 1981

HOMETOWN:

Born in Portsmouth, Va., but am a
U.S. Navy brat. I lived in Virginia,
Guam, California, Louisiana,
New Jersey, Mississippi and Michigan
while growing up.

FAMILY STATUS:

Single

PERSONAL MOTTO:

"Live life to the fullest."

PET PEEVE:

People driving super slow
in the fast lane

HOBBIES:

Working out at the gym,
shopping at the prime outlets
and surfing the net

**I JOINED THE MILITARY
BECAUSE:**

I wanted to serve my country and have
the opportunity to travel around the
world.

FIVE-YEAR GOAL:

To receive my CCAF, make technical
sergeant and get my associate's
degree in business management

ULTIMATE GOAL:

To retire from the Air Force as a chief
master sergeant, get my master's
degree in business management, and
adopt at least two children

MY FAVORITE QUOTE:

"There are no secrets to success. It is
the result of preparation, hard work,
and learning from failure."
— General Colin Powell

Living life to the fullest



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.



By Elizabeth Castillo

Discovery writer

According to Saint Augustine, "the world is a book, and those who do not travel, read only a page." For Staff Sgt. Nakeva Thomas her "first page" was read by age two.

A self-proclaimed "Navy brat," Staff Sgt. Nakeva Thomas's personal motto is to live life to its fullest. And she is doing it one state at a time. Since her birth in Portsmouth, Va., Sergeant Thomas has lived in more than seven states – including California, Louisiana, Mississippi, Michigan and Texas – as well as Guam.

Having different places to call home may not be the ideal choice for some people, however Sergeant Thomas enjoyed moving around.

"I did like moving because some people do not have the opportunity to see different sides of the world and the states," said Sergeant Thomas about traveling.

The lessons she learned about herself and how to adjust to different surroundings has left a lasting impression. "You have to be open to different personalities and you have to keep an open mind," she said.

However, constantly moving since such a small age had its slight disadvantages for Sergeant Thomas. "I'm kind of shy and the friends that I have, I try and keep them as long as possible," she said. "So when I leave it is emotional. I have to start all over (in making friends) and figure out whom I am in common with."

Sergeant Thomas still keeps in touch with friends she knew since she was 13 years old and living in New Jersey. She does so through e-mail and the websites where users can create their own personal webpages.

Sergeant Thomas has always had a desire to serve her country. Initially, she wanted to join the Navy, like her father. But her mother convinced her to join the Air Force instead. To prepare for a life in the Air Force, she became a part of

the Air Force JROTC at her high school. She also prepared in advance for basic training. She came to San Antonio and lived with her uncle for a few months in order to get accustomed to the weather and prepare for the vigorous training she would soon endure at Lackland AFB. She joined the Air Force on the late entry in November.

Since joining the Air Force after high school in 1999, Sergeant Thomas hasn't had the chance to travel. She has had three assignments, all three in Texas – she was twice assigned to Sheppard AFB before being assigned to Brooks. Currently, she is the NCOIC of information management for the 311th Human Systems Wing. Her job is to track, monitor and log all wing administration's correspondence.

Although she is still waiting for an assignment outside Texas, the Air Force has still kept Sergeant Thomas' travels a part of her life. She has had several deployments, occasionally to one of her past "home states." On a recent deployment to Biloxi, Miss., Sergeant Thomas visited a house where she once lived in Bay St. Louis. What she found was the disarray of a town that had been affected by Hurricane Katrina.

"I went to Bay St. Louis to see what it looked like. It's really bad," said Sergeant Thomas. "I went to my old house that I used to live in, and they literally had two trailers there and the people there had to wash everything outside by hand."

While stationed at Sheppard, Sergeant Thomas was deployed to Qatar for eight months where she just may have found her final destination.

"I would love to live in Qatar; when I was there I had a blast," she said. "It kind of looks like Vegas. The palm trees grew there and the buildings are really, really nice."

But living in Qatar wasn't easy, as they didn't enjoy all the luxuries of people living in the States. Sergeant

Thomas recalls an experience where her drying laundry felt the wrath of the many dust storms that often occurred in Qatar. "I had a washer but I didn't have a dryer so I had to dry my clothes outside," she said. "I was at work at the U.S. Embassy and I saw that there was a dust storm so I actually had to leave work and go pick up my clothes from the ground and wash them all over again."

Sergeant Thomas enjoyed her time in Qatar and wants to travel overseas again to Europe and the Azores Islands.

She is currently a student working on her degree at Park University where she takes classes at Lackland AFB. She plans on pursuing a career in fashion and is majoring in business management. Sergeant Thomas is an avid shopper which is a step away from her "tomboy" past when she played basketball and ran track. In finding a type of style that is suitable for her, Sergeant Thomas reaches for the stars.

"I usually look to individual celebrities like Jessica Simpson, Kimora Lee Simmons, 'conservative' Eve and Jennifer Lopez," she said.

Though the Air Force uniforms do not allow much leeway for a "fashionista" like Sergeant Thomas, she does not seem to mind the everyday attire. "I don't mind wearing the BDU's because I don't have to worry about what to wear," she said.

Sergeant Thomas indulges her shopping habit by making the short drive to the Prime Outlet stores in San Marcos or on the "superhighway" to some of her favorite on-line stores.

Though the road has brought Sergeant Thomas to San Antonio, it is just a page in this traveler's "book of life." She has goals and aspirations of receiving her bachelor's degree in business management, retiring as a Chief in the Air Force and continuing her life in the fashion business.



Brooks art treasures showcase artists' diversity of style, content

(Editor's note: This final part in a three-part series that chronicles the story of art as part of military culture and how it has helped convey the history of aviation.)

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

No Pablo Picasso-like masterpieces exist here, nor are there priceless works of art by artists known to the world outside Brooks City-Base. However, art treasures showcased here all share a common heritage and purpose. Collectively, they form a mosaic of sorts in telling an uncompleted story of the history of flight. Many are one-of-a-kind creations. Some are replicas of art treasures from antiquity. A few feature non-aviation themes. All are directly connected to the Air Force story as gifts or commissioned works.

"I do art that solely supports the mission," said Daniel Yacko, a Fairchild AFB, Wa. visual information specialist, whose work is featured here. This 56-year-old Indiana native has developed his talent as a muralist out of a commitment to the organization he works for - the 336th Training Support Squadron. Mr. Yacko uses many visual mediums that supports the Air Force Survival School there and Air Force survival training elsewhere.

It was his commitment to using art in helping convey important training themes that led him to create perhaps the finest aviation-themed painting displayed at Brooks. Visually imposing while dominating the SERE (Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape) course briefing room in Building 820, Mr. Yacko's work unmistakably conveys to observers the importance of survival training. His richly hued mural-size oil of a downed Air Force crew hovering over a forest campfire at night depicts a subtle danger. Attracted by the fire, and perhaps the promise of a meal, a bear stealthily approaches the crew who are unaware that their survival is in jeopardy.

This work is among the few creations of its type that Mr. Yacko has produced for the Air Force. "I have

done a couple of other murals, including one that features arctic survival training for Eielson AFB in Fairbanks, Alaska," Mr. Yacko recalls. While he prefers working in oils, he's like so many Air Force artists today who primarily use water-based paints in compliance with environmental restrictions.

Most paintings in the Brooks art collection feature diverse styles of oil portrait artists who found their niche during the Air Force Art Program's early years. While some are master portrait artists, a few prolific painters here flourished during a period characterized by less time consuming and more expedient art projects.

The trend in using artists trained in mediums other than portrait painting began in 1951 when the Air Force sponsored a tour of military installations for 30 cartoonists. By 1952, 30 artists from the Society of Illustrators in New York had toured Air Force bases. Their influence on Air Force portrait art, in particular, impacted commissioned works of senior leaders that Gen. Curtis LeMay, former Air Force Chief of Staff, had inaugurated when he expanded the art program.

One such Brooks artist, the late Erwin O. Wesp, was a U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine Multimedia Center graphics illustrator. "Wesp did a lot of medical and historical illustrations. He was more an illustrator than a fine portrait artist," said Fernando Cortez, former Hangar 9 curator whose portrait of Abraham Lincoln, given to President Gerald Ford during a San Antonio visit, is part of The White House art collection.

"Portrait art is one of the most challenging and difficult areas of painting. It's a challenge to capture the accurate proportions and characteristics of a face," says Mr. Cortez, whose portraits of the late Congressman Frank Tejeda and former USAFSAM commanders Colonels Rodger Vanderbeek



U.S. Air Force Photo

Former president Lyndon Johnson observes the statue of Hygeia, Greek goddess of health, a gift from the Royal Hellenic Air Force to the U.S. School of Aviation Medicine. It was presented in 1959 by Col. John Katsaros (left), Royal Greek Embassy Military Air Attache.

and Tom Travis are displayed here.

In contrast to Mr. Cortez's portrait work, and that of other trained portrait artists whose works are exhibited at USAFSAM headquarters in Bldg. 775, Wesp's portraits of 10 former commanders there appear less detailed. His work, and that of USAFSAM illustrator Mel Jordan, reflect a trend in Air Force portrait art that began in 1960. Historically, subjects sit motionless for hours having their portraits done. In the modern world of expediency and time constraints, Multimedia illustrators had to rely on photographs to paint commissioned portraits.

"They worked from official photographs taken in a studio using fluorescent flood lights that cast shadows. Artificial light bleaches out color. Their work is flat art with no contrast or depth dimension," explained Mr. Cortez, who is Director of the History and Traditions Museum at Lackland Air Force Base.

He admitted having the same problem when commissioned to paint Colonel Travis, who by then had an even busier schedule as 311th Human Systems Wing commander. Mr. Cortez countered the effects of studio light by taking photos of Colonel Travis from many angles. He then imagined where light and shadow fell on the face depending on the angle to create a work that appears to have been done in a portrait setting.

"It's sad to say that Air Force art has gone away from real art to imitation art through reproductions," Mr. Cortez lamented. Many art treasures here are reproductions of great works that have been given as gifts by foreign governments.

The most important reproduction at Brooks is an oil painting of 16th century Jesuit priest Jose de Acosta, displayed in the Aeromedical Library. "Acosta identified altitude sickness among the conquistadors. Spanish medical investigator Luis de Serna gave it to the School of Aviation Medicine in the late 1950s," said Joe Franzello, chief librarian.

Besides paintings, many works of art primarily donated to USAFSAM have been reproductions of statues. The most famous of these is the marble bust of Hygeia, Greek goddess of health, presented in 1959 by the Greek Air Force.



Courtesy photo

Belle Wesp, widow of former Brooks graphics illustrator Erwin Wesp, presents an oil by her late husband of astronaut Ed White to Brooks Air Force Base commander Brig. Gen. George Anderson.



This one-of-a-kind mural size oil of a downed Air Force aircrew trying to survive in the forest, exhibited in Building 820, was painted by Daniel Yacko from Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash. It's one of only three of Yacko's works depicting Air Force survival training that exist at Air Force bases worldwide.



Brooks hoopster one of AF basketball's brightest stars

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

A Bryant other than Kobe is making a name for himself on the hardcourt. While not kin to the Los Angeles Lakers' star with the same last name, Roderick Bryant is among the brightest stars in Air Force basketball.

More importantly, his contributions to the Brooks men's varsity basketball team have helped everyone elevate their level of play. While he consistently shines in demonstrating the skill and savvy he brings to the game, Bryant is the first to admit that winning is a team effort that begins with good defense.

"My dad, who was my mentor and coach, believed that defense always comes first," he said, referring to Robert Bryant, a former high school varsity basketball player. The elder Bryant introduced his son to basketball when the latter was just three years old. By age eight, he was progressing in organized ball as a proficient point guard.

Now one of the oldest players on the Brooks base team at age 30, Bryant is reaping rewards on the court from years of experience he gained while playing against some of the country's top talent.

"I always played at the varsity level," Bryant said, referring to his hoop contributions starting

in seventh grade at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. It was there he emerged as a top player for the Central Junior High Huskies. He also gained invaluable experience playing for a nationally ranked championship team that had won the state title during his freshman, junior and senior years.

"Since eighth grade I had played AAU ball. It was a great experience for me traveling to different tournaments and playing point and shooting guard against top athletes," he said. Among the great players he encountered was teammate Trajan Langdon, the future three-time All-American shooting guard at Duke University and NBA star with the Cleveland Cavaliers.

"I was really exposed to some great players. I played against Kevin Garnett when he was at South Carolina's Mauldin High School," Bryant said. Garnett wasn't the only future NBA star to compete against Bryant's team during the Myrtle Beach Classic in 1993-94. AAU star Toby Bailey, who later played for UCLA and the Phoenix Suns, was among a galaxy of future stars that Bryant observed firsthand.

Bryant subsequently played junior college ball, then transferred to Cal State-Fullerton on a full scholarship playing for the Division I Bulldogs. That deci-

sion proved fateful in that he had limited playing time there in what he described as a horrible season.

"Promises were made to me that went unfulfilled. I played part of the season as the starting point guard," he said.

Bryant was at a crossroads in his budding career. He turned down partial college scholarships from Arizona and Oregon. "I was only 19 at the time. I asked myself, 'Do I really want to sit out a full year?' I quit midway in the 1995 season and went home to Columbia, S.C. to be with my folks," he said.

That's when his dad, an Air Force veteran, made a recruiting pitch. "He told me I could get good experience playing Air Force basketball," Bryant said. He enlisted in 1996.

Bryant excelled as a guard for the Grand Forks AFB, N.D. varsity team in 1997-98 and Kunsan Air Base varsity team in 1998-99. However, his greatest success to date in Air Force basketball was helping the Altus AFB, Okla., varsity team win the 2003 Southwest Military Basketball League championship.

After Bryant was assigned here in 2004 as the Mission Support Group supply technician, Brooks varsity coach Damion Byrd recruited him for the base team. "I knew Rob Taylor, Desmond (Fahie) and Slim

(Bailey) from playing against them," Bryant said. His goal always has been to help any team he plays for get better.

"I try to help some of the younger guys develop their game," he said, adding there has been a big improvement in the Brooks team over the last few years. "A lot of people fear us now," he says about a rapidly improving squad.

Bryant and star point guard Wilman Dean have become a formidable scoring tandem. Like Dean, Bryant can beat most opponents off the dribble. Guarding him has been a challenge. "If they step off on me, I'll shoot a three-pointer. If they step toward me, I'm going right by them," Bryant said.

While helping Brooks win its first championship is among his

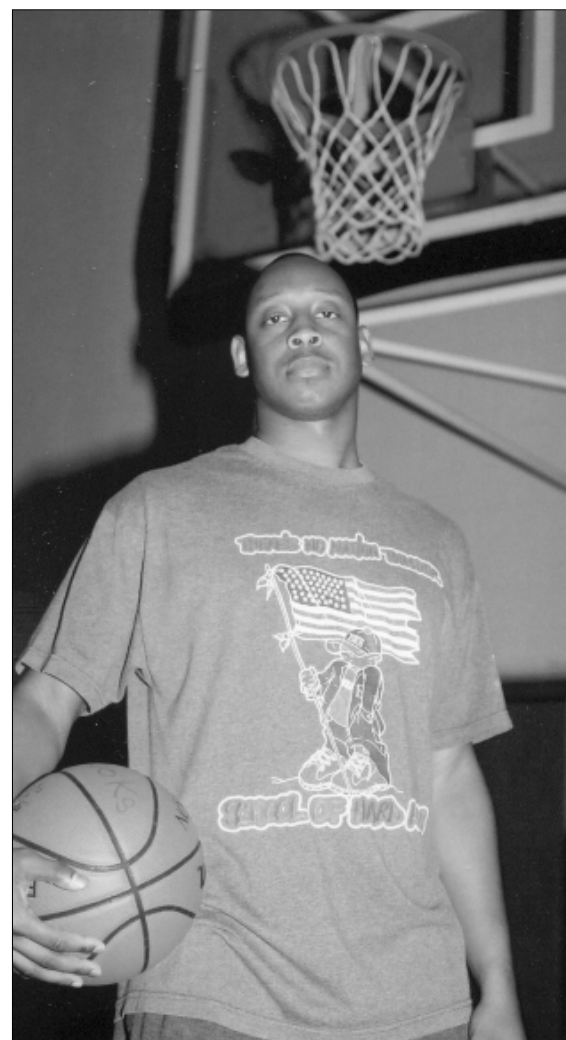


Photo by Rudy Purificato

Roderick Bryant, guard/forward for the Brooks men's varsity basketball team is averaging 24 points per game.

top priorities, Bryant's ultimate goal is to coach. "My high school coach Chuck White was a mentor. He instilled in me to always have confidence in everything I do." To Bryant's teammates, that confidence is infectious.

3-point shooting helps MSG capture base hoop crown

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

The Mission Support Group became only the second Brooks City-Base intramural basketball team this century to win back-to-back base championships, thanks to a 'dark horse' player who helped them earn a 55-47 title-clinching victory over the Human Systems Group Feb. 28.

Led by 6-foot-4 center Dave Vekasy's game and playoff high 25 points, MSG gutted out the win over a determined squad from HSG, the last Brooks team to win consecutive base intramural hoop championships (2000-01).

"He really saved our butts," said MSG player-coach Tim 'Shug' Martin, referring to Vekasy's career game in which he was 7-for-7 from three-point range. So hot was Vekasy, that the last six shots he took in the game were three-pointers.

Martin said Vekasy had repeatedly demonstrated that particular skill during early morning pickup games at the Brooks fitness center. It was there where Vekasy was recruited to play for MSG.

"Two years ago I played for the base team," said Vekasy, explaining that he did not play intramural basketball at Brooks last year. Few, if any, Brooks fans remembered him as he took the floor for MSG in the title game. By the second half, HSG fans were shouting advice to their team to keep the ball away from Vekasy.

"I was a varsity player in high school,"

says Vekasy, a native of Cleveland, Ohio. He also played junior college ball as a starter, but admitted he never had a game like the one that helped MSG win a championship.

Vekasy's performance did not set any base records for completed three-point shots. However, it did give MSG the edge they needed to overcome HSG.

MSG was without two key starters: point guard Marshall Harris and small forward Frank Hayden. While MSG's star player Roderick Bryant sizzled in the first half, it was Vekasy who dominated the second half as Bryant, a base varsity squad starter, did not score during the final stanza.

By the time Vekasy really got going, MSG had finally taken the lead with three minutes remaining in the first half. With Vekasy firing threes in the second half, MSG never again relinquished the lead.

"He was TDY. That hurts us," said HSG player-coach Damion Byrd before the start of the game, referring to the team's star guard Anthony Tillman. While no one could have predicted Tillman's effect on Vekasy's performance, his absence may have impacted the game's outcome.

Tillman had previously scored a game-high 18 points in HSG's first round 53-50 playoff victory over the Air Force Research Laboratory during the single elimination tournament. Tillman's game-high 11 points in HSG's second round 40-37 play-



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Laderis Harper, center for the Human Systems Group, scores a layup for his team in the intramural championships.

off victory over the 68th Information Operations Squadron's 'A' team helped HSG advance to the championship game.

MSG, the number one playoff seed as league champs, earned a first round bye before advancing to the title game. It was Bryant and Harris, rather than Vekasy, who contributed mightily in MSG's second round 69-46 playoff win over the 68th IOS 'B' squad.

Air Force enters MWC tourney as second seed

With a 12-4 conference record, the Air Force Academy men's basketball team earned the second seed in the upcoming Mountain West Conference tournament.

The Falcons (24-5 overall), who set a school record for wins, will face a scrappy Wyoming team in the tournament's quarterfinals. The seventh-seeded Cowboys (12-17, 5-11) gave the Falcons problems in the regular season. The Falcons split its season series with Wyoming — notching a one-point victory at home, and suffering a five-point loss on the road.

The Falcons have never won an MWC tournament game in six chances. They meet the Cowboys for the second time in the quarterfinals, with the Cowboys winning the 2002 meeting in overtime (69-67). The teams' last five meetings were decided by five points or less.

The Air Force women's team earned the seventh seed and will face Utah. The Falcons are 0-20 all-time against the Utes. The teams have met in the MWC tournament four times, all won by Utah. Air Force is looking for its first tournament win.